

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Little City Building - Removal Polrep  
 Final Removal Polrep

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



484745



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region V

**Subject:**

**POLREP #4**  
**Final**  
**Little City Building**

**Ottawa, IL****Latitude: 41.3468652 Longitude: -88.8420776****To:**

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 Charles Rodriguez, EPA

**From:**

Bradley Benning, OSC

**Date:**

9/9/2015

**Reporting Period:**

08/21/2015 to 09/09/2015

**1. Introduction****1.1 Background**

**Site Number:** C55U  
**D.O. Number:** 0156  
**Response Authority:** CERCLA  
**Response Lead:** EPA  
**NPL Status:** Non NPL  
**Mobilization Date:** 7/27/2015  
**Demob Date:** 9/9/2015

**Contract Number:** EP-S5-08-02  
**Action Memo Date:** 5/19/2015  
**Response Type:** Time-Critical  
**Incident Category:** Removal Action  
**Operable Unit:**  
**Start Date:** 7/27/2015  
**Completion Date:** 9/9/2015

CERCLIS ID: ILN000505583 RCRIS ID:  
 ERNS No.: State Notification:  
 FPN#: Reimbursable Account #:

### 1.1.1 Incident Category

#### Time-Critical Removal Action

### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Little City Building Site's (LCB) owner of over ten years, attempted to clean up the building for possible redevelopment and/or sale. The contractor hired by the owner in fact gutted the building for scrap causing flooding, severe structural problems and the release of ACM throughout the building. Future attempts to sell the site were unsuccessful due to the ACM release and structural concerns. The owner offered to donate the building to the City of Ottawa, as they no longer had financial resources to address the deteriorating conditions in the building. The City of Ottawa hired consultants to conduct asbestos and structural surveys of the building in 2014, which confirmed ACM release and imminent structural concerns. The City of Ottawa requested assistance from EPA due to the escalating costs for ACM cleanup, structural repairs and /or demolition of the site. EPA conducted an assessment of the building and found additional structural damage, giving concern that partial or complete structural failure of the building is imminent. The Site was referred to the Region 5 Superfund Program through the Brownfield's Program.

The Site comprises approximately 34,200 square feet, is a five story multi-wythe brick wall and timber floor framed structure constructed in 1902. The building's exterior west wall shows significant signs of failure due to years of water damage. Several windows are now open as past board-up measures have failed. A large area of the roof has collapsed resulting in the pancaking of floor sections on all five stories of the building. Extreme damage to all interior rooms is apparent from many years of neglect and water damage. The City has placed barriers along the south and west perimeters to keep pedestrians clear of the building.

#### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located at 112 West Madison Street, Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois. The building abuts existing structures to the east with a small alley to the west. A parking lot is situated to the north and the south face is the original main entrance along Madison Street sidewalk. The building is in the downtown business district. The Site's geographical coordinates are 41.3468 North latitude and -88.8420 West longitude.

#### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The Site presents a threatened and an ongoing release of hazardous substances. Past actions to secure the building show evidence of failing, several windows are now open as board-up measures have failed and the roof is partially exposed, posing potential release of ACM to the environment. This building is severely damaged and contains friable ACM throughout the inside which would pose an imminent and substantial threat to public health should the building suffer a catastrophic failure.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The removal site evaluation utilized data from the Comprehensive NESHAP Asbestos Survey conducted January of 2014, by Midwest Environmental Consulting Services and Building Structural Survey conducted August 2014, by Fehr-Graham Engineering for the City of Ottawa, which documented the following site conditions.

A total of 25 homogeneous areas were sampled, with 12 areas testing positive for asbestos (Chrysotile 1-20%), and one area (boiler insulation) not sampled due to site conditions but assumed to be asbestos. The ACM included air cell pipe insulation, floor tile, mastic, caulking, window glazing and boiler insulation, all mixed with building debris observed throughout all five floors and basement of the building. An estimated 200 linear feet of pipe insulation and 280 square feet of boiler insulation were identified. All asbestos was considered friable.

The bulk sampling strategy was based upon the protocol of homogenous areas established by the USEPA. A homogeneous sampling area (HSA) is defined as an area of material that is uniform in color, texture, construction, general appearance, and date of installation. Bulk samples of suspect ACM were analyzed by Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) utilizing the EPA-600/M4-82-020 Method. Bulk samples were analyzed using Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) "positive stop" protocol, meaning each sample of each HAS group is analyzed until asbestos is found in the HAS or all samples in the group are analyzed and are negative for asbestos content. Fehr-Graham Engineering performed an investigation of the building to ascertain the existing conditions and to make recommendations for necessary shoring and stabilization to allow the asbestos to be mitigated.

The collapsed floors along the west elevations have rendered the wall unsupported for its entire height. Masonry walls rely upon the lateral bracing provided by the floor systems. The bowing of the west wall observed from the exterior is consistent with unsupported masonry walls of this height.

The sagging floors immediately south of the collapsed bay require shoring along with areas of the fourth and fifth floors. Repairs to all levels require access between floors, which is currently limited due to the poor condition of the stairs. Further, any vibrations that are caused by stabilization work could be detrimental to the exterior masonry walls.

Fehr-Graham's professional opinion concludes that without stabilization and re-roofing the building may suffer from a partial or full collapse.

USEPA also conducted an assessment of the building on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, to provide a second opinion regarding the structural integrity of the building. A structural engineer from USEPA START contractor Tetra Tech inspected the building and agrees with the Fehr-Graham conclusions. Furthermore, additional damage was discovered on the exterior side of the west wall of the building during the site visit increasing concern that partial or complete structural failure of the building is imminent unless stabilization or controlled demolition measures are taken immediately.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

08/21/2015 - Remove last section of wall in NE corner; minor damage to adjacent building; moved remaining debris in basement to loading area; 20 loads of ACM debris shipped; one load of scrap steel recycled.

08/24/2015 - Continue loading ACM debris; 19 loads shipped; negotiated repair work with owner of adjacent building, owner will get estimate for work; Bank requesting rent for use of parking lot during removal action, EPA will agree to rent request and re-seal and re-stripe parking lot; removing protective material from adjacent roof.

08/25/2015 - Completed debris removal, shipped 20 loads of ACM debris; completed cleaning and washing adjacent roof; sweep and wash area around foundation.

08/26/2015 - Backfilling foundation with limestone screenings; general site cleanup.

08/27/2015 - Continue backfilling foundation; decon trailer demobed.

08/28/2015 - Continue backfilling foundation; prep equipment for demobe.

08/31/2015 - Backfilling and compaction completed; waiting on repair bid from adjacent building owner; prep equipment for demobe.

09/01/2015 - Crane and compactor demobed; RA Report sent in for completion; continue general cleanup.

09/02-04/2015 - RM and clerk on-site demobing remaining equipment.

09/08-10/2015 - RM on site to demobe site trailers and oversee sealcoating and stripping of parking lot; site fencing removed; ERRS working on payments to Bank for rent and adjacent owner for repair work.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Current property owner was sent a General Notice Letter, financial resources were not available to conduct the removal work.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
ACM Debris	solid	1530 tons			Laraway landfill, Joliet, IL
Scrap Metal	solid	140 tons			Recycling thru subcontractor

#### Regional Metrics

This is an Integrated River Assessment. The numbers should overlap.

Miles of river systems cleaned and/or restored

NA

NA

	Cubic yards of contaminated sediments removed and/or capped	
	Gallons of oil/water recovered	NA
	Acres of soil/sediment cleaned up in floodplains and riverbanks	NA
Stand Alone Assessment	Number of contaminated residential yards cleaned up	NA
Contaminant(s) of Concern	Number of workers on site	9
<b>Oil Response Tracking</b>	Asbestos	
Estimated volume	Initial amount released	NA
	Final amount collected	NA
	FPN Ceiling Amount	NA
CANAPS Info	FPN Number	NA
	Body of Water affected	NA

**Administrative and Logistical Factors (Place X where applicable)**

X	Precedent-Setting HQ Consultations (e.g., fracking, asbestos)	X	Community challenges or high involvement	Radiological
	More than one PRP		Endangered Species Act / Essential Fish Habitat issues	Explosives
	AOC		Historic preservation issues	Residential impacts
	UAO		NPL site	Relocation
	DOJ involved		Remote location	Drinking water impacted
	Criminal Investigation Division involved		Extreme weather or abnormal field season	Environmental justice
	Tribal consultation or coordination or other issues		Congressional involvement	X High media interest
	Statutory Exemption for \$2 Million		Statutory Exemption for 1 Year	Active fire present
X	Hazmat Entry Conducted – Level A, B or C		Incident or Unified Command established	Actual air release (not threatened)

**Green Metrics**

Metric	Amount	Units
Diesel Fuel Used	300	gallons
Unleaded Fuel Used	250	gallons
Alternative/E-85 Fuel Used		gallons
Electricity from electric company	NA	kWh
Electric Company Name and Account #	NA	
Electricity from sources other than the electric company	Generator	350 kWh
Solid waste reused	Spent limestone screenings	2000 tons

Solid waste recycled	Scrap Steel	140 tons	
Water Used	60,000	gallons	

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**2.2 Planning Section****2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Submit payments to Bank and adjacent building owner.

**2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

No additional response actions anticipated

**2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

None

**2.2.2 Issues**

Communication service was disrupted to an adjacent business due to line damage from demolition work. ATT was requested to move the line prior to work start, but action was not completed. New line is being located to the front of the building to restore service. Minor damage to the adjacent building wall and roof, will negotiate repair work with owner.

**2.3 Logistics Section**

ERRS and Demolition company supplied all personnel and equipment.

**2.4 Finance Section****2.4.1 Narrative**

All costs are processed through ERRS.

**Estimated Costs \***

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$800,000.00	\$615,841.00	\$184,159.00	23.02%
TAT/START	\$25,000.00	\$19,534.00	\$5,466.00	21.86%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$825,000.00</b>	<b>\$635,375.00</b>	<b>\$189,625.00</b>	<b>22.98%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this

report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Demolition contractor had a certified asbestos manager on site, EPA was overall safety officer.

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

NA

### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

Charles Rodriguez, EPA, is the Community Involvement Coordinator. Site Fact Sheet was distributed to the adjacent businesses in the area. Fact sheet was posted on signs along the east and north perimeter fencing.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

EPA

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City of Ottawa  
Illinois EPA

## **4. Personnel On Site**

EPA - 1  
START - 1  
ERRS - 2  
American Demolition - 6  
RiskNomics - 1

## **5. Definition of Terms**

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
ERRS - Emergency & Rapid Response Services  
HASP - Health and Safety Plan  
mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram  
OSC - On scene coordinator  
ppb - parts per billion  
ppm - parts per million  
RM - removal manager  
START - Superfund Technical Assessment & Response Team  
TDD - Technical Direction Document  
TO - Task Order  
ACM - Asbestos Contaminated Material  
f/cc - fibers per cubic centimeter  
PEL - Permissible Exposure Level

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[www.epaosc.org/littlecitybuilding](http://www.epaosc.org/littlecitybuilding)

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

No additional reports anticipated

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.

